

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 682  
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to recognize Richard C. Shadyac for his meritorious service to the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC) and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have sacrificed personal concerns to assist and nurture this State's most precious resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, for thirteen productive years, Richard C. Shadyac has served with distinction as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC), the fund raising arm of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and currently the nation's third largest health care charity; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases; and

WHEREAS, founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas and based in Memphis, St. Jude freely shares its discoveries with scientific and medical communities around the world; no family ever pays St. Jude for treatments not covered by insurance, and families without insurance are never asked to pay; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2005, Richard Shadyac will answer the tantalizing call of retirement, much to the dismay of his colleagues and many friends at ALSAC/St. Jude who will miss him greatly; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman of uncommon conviction, compassion and vision, Richard Shadyac has left an indelible imprint on ALSAC/St. Jude through his strategic and inspired

leadership that has shaped and secured the future growth and prosperity of this worthy organization; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure as CEO of ALSAC/St. Jude, Mr. Shadyac established Gift Planning and Donor Services Departments, reorganized the Direct Mail and Television Programs, and energized the *Country Cares for St. Jude Kids* National Radio Program; and

WHEREAS, he was also instrumental in establishing affiliate institutions in Ireland, Jordan, Chile and Lebanon, the ancestral home of Danny Thomas and many members of the ALSAC/St. Jude Board; and

WHEREAS, through Mr. Shadyac's dynamic leadership and innovative fundraising programs, St. Jude has increased its public support from less the \$100 million per year in 1992 to over \$400 million; and

WHEREAS, he also played a major role in the growth of St. Jude during the past decade, which included a one billion dollar expansion of hospital services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, truly possessing the spirit of the Renaissance, Mr. Shadyac had served on the ALSAC/St. Jude Board of Directors and Governors for nearly thirty years and as General Counsel before assuming the numerous and complex duties of CEO of ALSAC in 1992; and

WHEREAS, a close friend of Danny Thomas, Mr. Shadyac helped stabilize ALSAC and St. Jude after the death of Mr. Thomas in 1991; and

WHEREAS, a singular citizen who has devoted his life to the service of others, Richard Shadyac has been awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in recognition of his exceptional humanitarian efforts and outstanding contributions to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining ALSAC, Richard Shadyac served his country in the United States Army, was a trial lawyer for the Department of Justice, and practiced law at Shadyac & Shadyac, P.C. for over forty years in the Washington D.C. area; and

WHEREAS, Talat Othman, Chairman of the ALSAC Board of Directors, has said of this estimable gentleman: "Dick Shadyac is one of the giants of our institution. Dick has an impressive record as CEO, but even more important, he has left an impressive legacy -- a deep

and abiding love for the children of St. Jude. His leadership and passion will be sorely missed."; and

WHEREAS, William E. Evans, Director and CEO of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, has stated that 'Mr. Shadyac always did what it took to support the mission of St. Jude.' He has further stated: "Dick was always there for us, doing what was necessary to ensure we had the resources and capability of providing unsurpassed patient care and world-class research on childhood catastrophic diseases. He never lost his focus - it was always on the children."; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the most telling and poignant comment on Mr. Shadyac's enduring legacy at ALSAC/St. Jude was made by the distinguished gentleman himself: "If ALSAC and St. Jude stay focused on the children, the American people will continue to support our founder Danny Thomas's dream that no child die in the dawn of life."; and

WHEREAS, it has been said that a man never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child; Richard C. Shadyac has lived this axiom for over forty years through his unselfish and proficient service with ALSAC/St. Jude; and

WHEREAS, the thousands of children and their families who have benefited from and even flourished under the quality medical care they received at St. Jude are eternally grateful to Mr. Shadyac and his colleagues for the huge positive difference ALSAC and St. Jude have made in their lives; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that we are blessed with a man of Mr. Shadyac's eminent stature, and it is only appropriate that we should pause to thank him for his lifetime of sterling service to our children on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Richard C. Shadyac for his meritorious service to the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC) and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, commend him upon his influential and innovative tenure as Chief Executive Officer of ALSAC/St. Jude, salute his "deep and abiding love for the children of St. Jude," and extend to

this remarkable gentleman our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.